(a) whether it is a fact that the Kerala Government has unanimously passed a resolution and a joint memorandum of the State Ministry and all parties in the State demanding setting up of a High Court Bench at Thiruvananthapuram, the capital city of State which was received by the Government of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for not taking any steps to set up a High Court Bench there?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) An All Party Delegation led by Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition, Kerala has submitted Memoranda dated 15th April, 2008 and 6th September, 2008 to the Prime Minister and dated 30th April, 2008 to the President, *inter alia*, stating that the Kerala Legislative Assembly passed two resolutions in 1958 and 2004 for establishment of a Permanent Bench of Kerala High Court at Thiruvananthapuram.

The Chief Minister of Kerala was requested on 14th July, 2008 to clarify whether the proposal for establishing a High Court Bench at Thiruvananthapuram satisfied the broad principles and criteria recommended by the Jaswant Singh Commission. He was also requested to convey the views of the Chief Justice of Kerala High Court and those of the Governor of Kerala in terms of Section 51(2) of the States Reorganization Act, 1956. While a reply from Chief Minister of Kerala has been received, the views of the Governor of Kerala are awaited.

Solar Taxi

*30. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that one Mr. Palmer is reported to have developed a battery for solar taxi which, when charged, can travel 400 kilometers at a speed of 90 kilo-meters per hour and is on a visit to Poland en-route to various countries in Europe and USA;

(b) if so, the detail on technology gathered by Indian Scientists and technocrats;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some Indians have also invented solar energy based petrol-less engine for vehicles and submitted to Government for patent registration; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) As per the available information from the internet, Mr. Louis Palmer, a resident of Switzerland is using high energy ZEBRA batteries made from common salt, ceramics and nickel, for running a solar powered vehicle – the solar taxi in his world tour for promoting awareness about conserving energy resources and the environment.

(c) and (d) The Patent Office has informed that so far five patent applications have been filed in India for solar based vehicles. Out of these, one patent has been granted, another abandoned, one withdrawn and the rest are under their examination.